

# CITY OF LYNN

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March 7, 2017

Dr. Catherine Latham, Superintendent  
Lynn School Department  
100 Bennett Street  
Lynn, MA 01905

Re: Ballot Questions – Two New Middle Schools

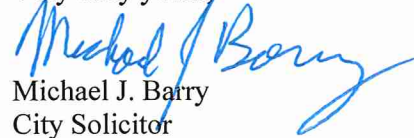
Dear Dr. Latham:

This correspondence is in response to your request for an opinion regarding the distinction between the two ballot questions that will appear on the ballot for the Special Election scheduled for March 14, 2017. Question Number One requests the voters to approve the vote of the Lynn City Council dated January 24, 2017 in which the City Council approved bonded indebtedness in excess of four million dollars for the construction of two new middle schools to be located at the Reservoir site and McManus Field. Section 5 – 6 of the Lynn City Charter requires the approval of the voters of the City of Lynn whenever the City proposes to incur bonded indebtedness in excess of four million dollars. Question Number Two requests the voters of the City of Lynn to approve a debt exclusion whereby there would be a temporary tax increase to be utilized solely to pay off the debt incurred for the construction of the two new schools. This tax increase could not be utilized to pay for any costs other than those costs related to the construction of the two new schools and said tax increase would terminate by law on the date that the debt for the schools has been satisfied in full.

Should the voters of Lynn fail to approve either of the two ballot questions, the schools will not be constructed. Following consultation with financial officials of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City will not be permitted to bond these projects unless the voters affirmatively approve both Question Number One and Question Number Two.

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Very truly yours,

  
Michael J. Barry  
City Solicitor

cc: Judith Flanagan Kennedy, Mayor  
Darren Cyr, Council President  
Peter M. Caron, Chief Financial Officer